

Largely overlooked was the decision's rebuke of the FBI and the Mueller team. The D.C. Circuit became the first federal court to acknowledge the misconduct that Attorney General William Barr is trying to bring to light. Most of the courts that oversaw Mr. Mueller's prosecutions were asked to do no more than rubber-stamp a plea deal or sign off on a jury verdict. But Mr. Flynn, backed by tenacious lawyer Sidney Powell, fought the charges—forcing the Justice Department to review its actions, acknowledge its bad acts, and move to dismiss its case. Democrats and the press cast this outcome as evidence of Mr. Barr's "politicization." The circuit court begs to differ.

The Justice Department's credibility was at stake here. Judge Sullivan bought into the same Democratic conspiracy theories, which is why he refused Justice's motion to dismiss and appointed retired judge John Gleeson to act as shadow prosecutor. He argued the Justice Department wasn't entitled to the usual "presumption of regularity." And if the circuit judges thought there was anything to claims that Mr. Barr was playing political favorites, it could have allowed the process to continue.

Instead they bluntly noted that there was no "legitimate basis" to question the department's behavior. They even slapped Mr. Gleeson for relying on "news stories, tweets and other facts outside the record." By contrast, Judge Rao's opinion notes: "The government's motion includes an extensive discussion of newly discovered evidence casting Flynn's guilt into doubt." It points out that this includes "evidence of misconduct by the Federal Bureau of Investigation." It finishes by noting that each government branch must be encouraged to "self correct when it errs."

The court's conclusion is obvious. All it had to do was look at the voluminous evidence the Justice Department supplied. Its briefs proved the FBI had improperly pursued Mr. Flynn, keeping open an investigation that produced no evidence, ginning up a "violation" of the seldom-enforced Logan Act, sandbagging Mr. Flynn with an interview that had no "legitimate investigative basis." It even provided new FBI notes this week suggesting that then-President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were improperly engaged in the investigation. The department's filings showed that the Mueller team had consistently denied defense attorneys exculpatory information. And it explained the straightforward process by which it had reached its decision to withdraw: Mr. Barr in February appointed veteran U.S. Attorney Jeff Jensen to review the case, and in May Mr. Jensen concluded dismissal was "the proper and just course."

What matters, however, is that the public gets the truth from credible sources. It's been coming, from congressional inquiries, from the nonpartisan Justice Department inspector general, from internal Justice and FBI reviews. And now from a court.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to travel requirements, I was not present to vote during the first vote series on June 25, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 116 and NAY on Roll Call No. 117.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUFUS HERNANDEZ, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Rufus Hernandez, Jr., who passed away on April 19, 2020. Rufus was a longtime Fresno community leader and veteran of the Merchant Marines and Air Force, who dedicated his life to helping others.

Rufus was born on February 12, 1927 in Roseville, California. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Merchant Marines and served as a mariner seaman on the *William N. Byers* Liberty Ship in 1945 and the *SS Monroe* Victory Ship from 1945 to 1946 during World War II. His duties included lookout, cargo transfer, and deckhand. Rufus volunteered to navigate the ship through a foreign port and channels when there was no pilot available to navigate. After his time in the Merchant Marines, Rufus joined the Air Force in 1948 until his service ended in 1952. He served in the 7th Air Division and volunteered for photography training which took him to Denver, South Dakota, and England. He earned the rank of staff sergeant and ran the photography department along with training new recruits.

After his military career, Rufus became a restaurateur and a bank executive. He most enjoyed being a father to his six children and later, a grandfather and great grandfather. He enjoyed spending his time with his fellow veteran friends and was involved in the American Legion. He was honored as Grand Marshall in 2014 Central Valley Veterans Day Parade, representing the Merchant Marines. For many years, Rufus participated in the Central Valley Veterans Day Parade and enjoyed being around veterans who loved their country just as much as he did.

Rufus is preceded in death by his father, Rufus Hernandez, Sr., mother, Sarah Hernandez (Morales), and his two brothers, Robert and Michael Hernandez.

He is survived by his children, daughter Catherine Hernandez, daughter Cheryl Walter and son-in-law Marty Walter, daughter Teresa Smith and son-in-law Doug Smith, daughter Sandra Bettencourt and son-in-law Jeff Bettencourt, son Richard Hernandez and

daughter-in-law Sol Fernandez, daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ahrens; and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Rufus Hernandez, Jr. His commitment to his country and dedication to the Central Valley has left an impact. I join his family and friends in honoring his great life.

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO GERD PROJECT NEGOTIATION

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of continued cooperation and peaceful negotiations between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan regarding the construction and operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Furthermore, I urge the Trump Administration to respect our nation's role as an impartial observer to these discussions going forward.

As you know, the GERD project broke ground in 2011. Next month, construction will be complete. When fully filled and operational, the dam will generate approximately 6,000 megawatts of electricity—making it the largest hydropower project in Africa. It will directly impact the flow of water, increase the supply of energy, and help ensure food security in Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan. In Ethiopia, it will help alleviate drought conditions that have impacted nearly one fifth of its population and inflicted untold damage on crops across the country. In Egypt, it will help improve water supply for the rapidly growing population. In Sudan, it will help reduce sediment and control flooding.

For the past four years, negotiations have followed the 2015 Declaration of Principles, agreed upon by the three countries involved in the negotiations. These principles outlined a commitment to peaceful resolution to conflicts as they arise; mutual trust and respect; information sharing; security; respect for one another's sovereignty; and stewardship of the River Nile.

In recent months, tensions have escalated between Ethiopia and Egypt, putting the project in jeopardy. We must honor our nation's role as an observer of these negotiations and avoid taking on an additional role as a facilitator or mediator. Moreover, we must not play favorites or take any other action that may risk damaging the integrity of this process or put a peaceful, mutually beneficial agreement out of reach.

As negotiations continue, I urge the United States Government and all other international parties to respect the 2015 Declaration of Principles, engage only with African Union diplomats, and support a peaceful resolution for all countries involved and for the region at large.